

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2015

Vol. 76, No. 3

Pastor's Page

"Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 'I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.'" Job 42:1-3



One of the requirements of being a Pastor in the United Methodist Church is taking continuing education. To meet this requirement, and to improve myself, I have been taking a class on "Suffering" at Hartford Seminary. One of the



blessings of this course has been an exhaustive study of the Old Testament book of Job. It has reintroduced me to a very important book that I have read, many times, but have not grasped in thirty plus years of ministry.

For those of you who have not studied the Book of Job, Job is a good man who is blameless in his life and actions. One day God is holding court, and Satan is standing before God. "And the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning from evil.'" What follows is that Satan is allowed to test Job. In the chapters that follow, Job loses his wealth, his children and his health. His wife tells him that he should "Curse God and die." His "friends" tell him that his sin is the reason why he is suffering, and he should repent. In many ways, it is a most difficult book to read.

Job raises the question about undeserved suffering. If you have ever said, "What did I do to deserve this?" the book of Job is actually about you. I admit that I have always been a bit baffled by this book. But the blessing of the book has started revealing itself through my class discussions. The book makes clear that there is no cause and effect between our actions and "God's righteous punishment." Instead, the book encourages, nudges, us to recognize the plight of those who are suffering. Job, the man, gradually moves beyond his own individual pain, and recognizes the pain of those around him.

(Cont. to Page 2)

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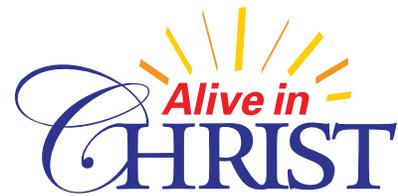
The climax of the story occurs when God speaks to Job out of the whirlwind. Some commentators have been taken aback by God's response. Joseph Campbell, author of *The Power of Myth*, summarized God's response as "Are you big?" But God's response is reminding us that we are human beings, and there are many things beyond our understanding. We can never really know the mind of God—we certainly cannot control God and declare that "This is the way God will act!" In the end, the book of Job calls out to all of us to have a sense of humility.

We face struggles and even pain in our lives. We sometimes wonder why we have to endure the unendurable. During those moments, we may wonder why God is after us. Job reminds us that God isn't seeking revenge against you. And if, in the midst of our pain, we may be able to step outside of our own circumstances, and recognize that there are other people in their pain — if we are able to recognize that there are other people with us in the cancer infusion center — if we are able to recognize that there are others who have lost everything — we may be able to lift ourselves out of our pain in the service of others. Perhaps, we may even be blessed to hear God's voice in the whirlwinds of life.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Holy Week

Holy Week will take place from March 30th through April 3rd. During this very holy and special time in the Christian year, Prospect UMC will have many opportunities for you to draw closer to our compassionate and forgiving God.



Early Morning Communion – You are invited to participate in a “drop-in” communion service on March 30th, 31st and April 1st. Pastor Sorozan will be in the chapel from 8:30 to 9 a.m. to celebrate communion. Come in, read a Bible passage or inspirational reading and receive communion.

Maundy Thursday Service – You are invited to our Maundy Thursday service where we remember Jesus last meal with his disciples before his arrest, mock trial and execution. The service will begin at 7 pm.

Good Friday – A simple and solemn service of readings, prayers and silent meditations will recall Jesus’ sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The service will begin at 12 Noon.

Order Your Easter Plants

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Sunday, March 29th. Cost per plant is \$10. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the 10 a.m. Easter service.

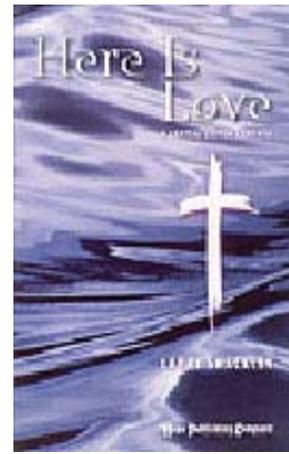


In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number of Plants	
Given by	
Amount Enclosed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Leaving Plant or <input type="checkbox"/> Taking Plant	

Music Notes

Cantata "Here Is Love" Composed By Larry Shackley

Prospect United Methodist Church will host a Lenten cantata "Here Is Love" on Sunday, March 29 at 10 a.m. This cantata from composer Larry Shackley centers on the events of Holy Week. It was first performed at Prospect in 2009. Well-known contemporary and traditional titles as well as original compositions tell the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection.



The Passion narrative is a story of power and struggle, of pain and disappointment, of betrayal and treachery. But most of all, it is a love story; the story of a Creator who loved the world so much that he gave his most precious possession to redeem it. At the center of the story is Jesus Christ, the expression of that love, who willingly gave his life on behalf of his friends (including his friends here in the 21st century.)

The cantata tries to capture the wonder of the amazing sacrifice as we hear how God's loving plan of redemption plays out in the events of Christ's final week on earth. It features traditional hymn tunes combined with traditional pieces.

Please plan to be present at worship service on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29th, as the Senior Choir, along with friends, bring this moving story of overwhelming love to our congregation. Eleanor Hurlburt will be the organist and Bob and Nancy Rhodes will be the narrators.

Holy Week, the last week of Lent and the week before Easter, marks the week-long Christian commemoration of Jesus' final days and death, beginning with Palm Sunday and including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The cantata will start in Jerusalem and the events of Palm Sunday. It takes us through Holy Week, from Jesus praying in the garden, to being taken into custody and put before Pilate, and also the events of Good Friday when He died on the cross.

Invite your friends and neighbors to attend this event!

Did You Know ...

... that the Rev. Woody Eddins, pastor of Simsbury United Methodist Church and former pastor of Asbury U.M.C., hails from the same town as noted author Harper Lee, whose "To Kill a Mockingbird" is one of the most highly regarded American classic novels?

[Editor's Note: Pastor Woody was the pastoral team leader, in coordination with Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator, on the Volunteer in Mission trip Jill Wilson took to Ghana in October.]

Nelle Harper Lee, now 88, was awarded the 1960 Pulitzer Prize for "To Kill a Mockingbird," which highlights the racism she saw while growing up in Monroeville, Ala. The book world learned only recently that an earlier manuscript that actually will be a sequel to the best seller will be released this summer. The new novel will be entitled "Go Set a Watchman."

Pastor Woody's father was a doctor in the town of Monroeville, where he was raised. His brother still lives there. He heard in the fall that the long lost manuscript had been found and might be published. He notes: "We lived next door to Alice Lee ... the older sister of 'Nell' — we call her 'Nell,' but most people know her as Harper. Alice was the oldest practicing lawyer in Alabama when she died last year at 102. The talk was that she was so ethical that no one wanted her to do their taxes."

Alice reportedly was a big supporter of the local UMC, so much so that there is an "Alice Lee Award" given nationally by the UMC in her honor. Pastor Woody had some of the same teachers in elementary school as the Lee sisters, and they had interesting stories to tell as well, he recalls.

Harper Lee is in an assisted living facility in Monroeville and in somewhat frail health, but still has a feisty spirit and long has been fiercely protective of her privacy. She considers the new novel to be a "parent," not a "sequel," to TKAM, according to a New York Times article.

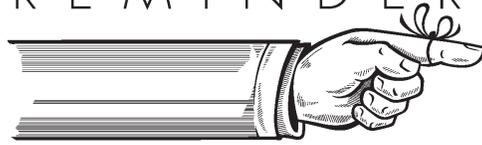
■ Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God’s presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God’s magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus’ promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the “little things,” coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God’s answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you “sacrifice” the tendency to wallow in worry.

PRAYER

REMINDER



Use this fun family activity to remember to pray for other people.

What you need:

- White index cards (at least six)
- Markers or colored pencils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown)
- M&M’s candies



What you do:

1. On each card, write a group of people to pray for (family members, friends, teachers, sick people, etc.). Use a different color of writing utensil for each card.
2. While sitting at a table, divide the M&M’s among family members.
3. Spread out the cards and explain that each color represents a group of people to pray for. Have each family member choose one candy and consider who they’ll pray for.
4. Designate one person to start praying aloud. Go around the circle, and have the last person close.
5. At the end of that round, eat those M&M’s.
6. Continue until you’ve prayed for all the cards. (Make more, if you’d like!)



POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do – any time and anywhere.

Directions: Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

1
apple
anxious
artichoke

2
every
eagle
emu

3
purple
pink
prayer

4
Paul
petition
Peter

5
taste
touch
thanksgiving

6
rest
requests
relax

7
God
George
Greg

8
puddle
peace
pond

9
transcends
train
truck

10
unusual
unique
understanding

11
guard
giraffe
gorilla

12
hearts
hold
held

13
many
minds
more

14
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
Philippians

“Do not be _____¹ about anything, but in
 _____² situation, by _____³ and
 _____⁴, with _____⁵,
 present your _____⁶ to _____⁷. And
 the _____⁸ of God, which _____⁹
 all _____¹⁰, will _____¹¹
 your _____¹² and your _____¹³
 in Christ Jesus.” _____¹⁴ 4:6-7, NIV

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving, 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard, 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippians

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Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested